

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 6-16, 18-67 are presently active in this case. The present Amendment amends Claims 1, 4, 6-7, 14-16, 18-22, 24, 30, 49, 51, 55, 58, cancels Claims 2-3, 5, and 17 and adds new Claims 66 and 67.

The outstanding Office Action rejected Claims 1, 4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Takashi et al. (European Patent No. EP 0,847,049, herein referred as "Takashi").

Further, the outstanding Office Action indicated Claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8-65 as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter.

In response to the rejections of independent Claims 1, 4 and 7, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, in the spirit of moving prosecution forward for the present application, Claims 1, 4 and 7 are amended to recite all the features of the allowed dependent Claims 2, 5 and 17.

Further, amended Claim 49 recites the features of original independent Claim 1 combined with the features of original Claim 49. Amended Claim 58 recites the features of original independent Claim 1 combined with the features of original Claim 58.

In order to vary the scope of protection, new claims are added. New Claim 66 recites the features of original independent Claim 1 combined with the features of Claim 3. New Claim 67 recites the features of original independent Claim 1 combined with the features of Claim 5. Consequently, Claims 2-3, 5 and 17 are cancelled.

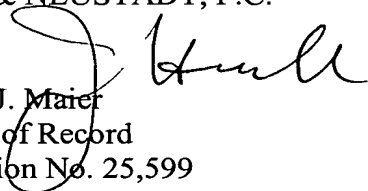
In order to correct formal issues in the claims, Claims 6, 14-16, 18-22 and 24 are amended to correct the claim dependency and to avoid improper multiple dependent claims. Claims 30, 51 and 55 are amended to correct punctuations.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1, 4, 6-16, 18-67 is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.


Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Philippe J. C. Signore, Ph.D.
Registration No. 43,922



22850

Tel. (703) 413-3000
Fax (703) 413-2220
GJM/PJCS/NPS/maj
I:\ATTY\NS\00038\113169US\113169US-AM1-DRAFT3.DOC

James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421